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appoint *Thomas Basset* and *Richard Tonson*, and no
others, to Print my Informations,

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THE
INFORMATIONS

OF

Robert Jenifon

OF

Grayes Inn, Esquire.

Relating the

Horrid Popish Plott,

AS

They were given in Writing upon OATH

TO THE

Honourable House

OF

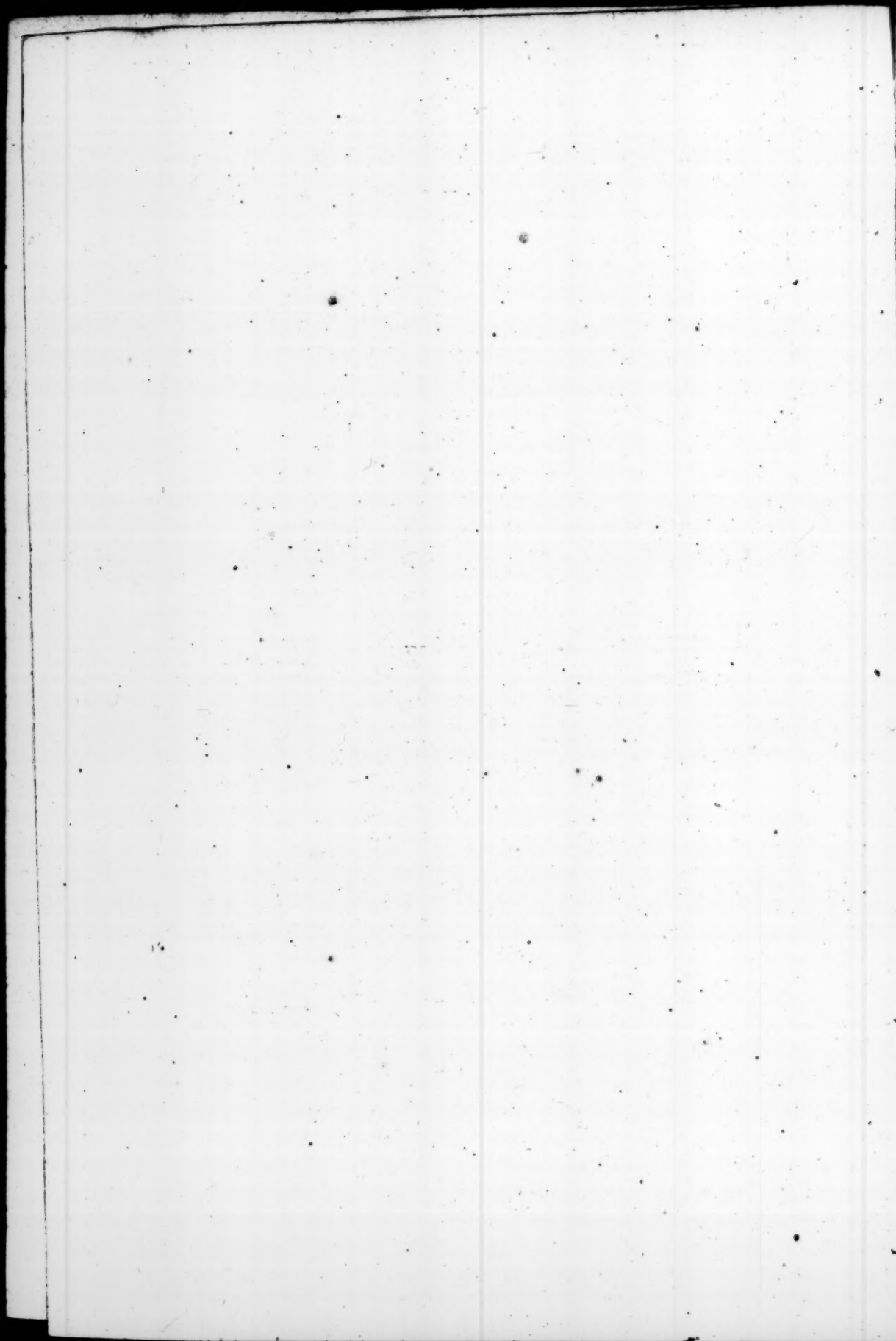
COMMONS

ON

Tuesday the 9th day of November, 1680.

L O N D O N,

Printed for *Thomas Bassett*, and *Richard Tonson*, at the George
in *Fleet-street*, and at *Grayes-Inn Gate*, next *Grayes-Inn*
Lane, MDCLXXX.



THE
INFORMATIONS
OF

ROBERT JENISON, Esq;

Concerning the

Horrid Popish Plot, &c.

THis Informant saith, That about the beginning of the Year 78. he hath heard Mr. Ireland and Mr. Tho. Jenison, both Jesuits, discourse of a Design by the *Roman Catholics*, to obtain a Liberty, or a Toleration for the open Profession of their Religion here in *England*; and the way he then heard them speak of, was, by collecting a round Sum of Money among their Party, and by bribing the greatest part of the then Parliament. This Informant hath likewise heard the two fore-named Persons talk of securing the Duke of *York's* Succession, which they told this Informant, was to be done by granting out Commissions to those of that Religion, to the end they might be ready to rise upon the Death of the King. He hath also heard these, with other Jesuits, viz. *Blunden* and *Fenwick*, discourse in general terms, of the necessity and usefulness to their Party, of altering the Government establish'd, and that the *Roman Catholick* Religion could never be settled in *England* till that were done, and that the present Government were brought to the *French* Model.

In the Month of *June*, in the same year, this Informant being at Mr. Ireland's Chamber in *Russel-street Covent Garden*, and there happening some Discourse, that the *Roman Catholick* Religion would suddenly come in, and be owned in *England*, Mr. Ireland did then say, That there was onely one in the way that hindered that Religion from flourishing in *England*

again, and that it was an easie matter to poyson the King, and that Sir George Wakeman might opportunely and easily do it; and this Informant then demanding, if Sir George Wakeman was the King's Physician? Mr. Ireland did to that Question reply, No: but that he was the Queen's, and thence might have an opportunity to do it.

In August following, the same day this Informant came from Windsor, (which he hath great reason to remember by very good Circumstances) this Informant went to Mr. Ireland's Chamber, where he found him pulling off his Boots upon the frame of a Table, who told this Informant, he was newly come by Post from Wolverhampton in Staffordshire, and that this Informant's Relations there were well, and would have been glad to have seen this Informant there, who, after a return of thanks, and some Congratulation upon his Arrival, told Mr. Ireland he was newly come from Windsor; the said Ireland thereupon enquiring what News from thence, and of the Diversion of the Court; the Informant made Answer, he understood that His Majesty took much delight in Hawking, and Fishing, but chiefly in the latter, which he used to follow early in the morning, accompanied with a small Retinue of two or three. Mr. Ireland presently reply'd, *He were easily taken off, or removed*; to which this Informant returned, and made Answer, *God forbid*: After some pause, No, sayes he, I do not say 'tis lawful. Here happened this Interruption; This Informant then asked Mr. Ireland, seeing he was newly come out of Staffordshire, what his Aunt said concerning a Letter sent to her about two Months before, relating to the same Sum, or thereabouts, which this Informant had had in the mean time of him; Mr. Ireland did then make answer, as from her, that she did not think fit to answer it; and further, *That the old Gentlewoman was hard enough, and would bold her own*. After this, he drew down a Discourse concerning Religion, which was shortly to be brought in, and pressed this Informant, by divers Arguments, to be instrumental in it, urging how *Meritorious* it would be, and how much to the Glory of God, and thereupon offered to cause the 20th borrowed of him by this Informant, to be remitted, and forgiven him, if he would be assisting to the taking off the King, and would be one of those that would go to Windsor about it. But this Informant did answer, that he would not for twenty times twenty

ty pound have any hand in the Death of the King; whereupon the said *Ireland* reply'd, *Will you do nothing to bring in the Catholick Religion?* To which this Informant did say, that he did not believe it would ever come in by Bloud. Upon which the said *Ireland* reply'd, *What? Would you not have Religion to flourish in England again?* Whereto this Informant answered, if it were done, if the King were taken off, so and well, but this Informant said he would have no hand in it.

But the said *William Ireland* not being satisfied with this Informant's Answers, pursued thus, do you know any *Irish* men of our Religion, that are stout and courageous? this Informant replyed, the *Irish* Gentlemen were commonly so; and did name Captain *Levalin*, Mr. *Thomas Brabal*, Mr. *Karney*, three *Irish* men, and Mr. *James Wilson*, being all Gentlemen that lived in or about *Greys-Inn*, of whose name (two of them at the least) the said *Ireland* took particular Notice in writing, to the best of this Informant's Remembrance. And this Informant did then tell the said *Ireland*, that he believed no men of Estates would be concerned in that Affair, and that he himself was Heir to an Estate, (his Brother being a Priest) and he understood, that Captain *Levalin* was Heir to a very good Estate, and therefore this Informant did believe he would have nothing to do in any such matter, unless the pique which he had to the King, might move him to it; and this Informant saith, that after he had upon the Importunity of *William Ireland*, named unto him, Captain *Levalin*, Mr. *Karney*, Mr. *Braball*, and Mr. *James Wilson*, to be stout and courageous Gentlemen, the said *William Ireland* did ask and require this Informant, to go down with the said Gentlemen to *Windsor*, to be assisiant in the taking of the King; which this Informant refused, saying, he would not have any hand in the death of the King; saying, no men of Estates would engage therein, as this Informant believed; and the said *William Ireland* did approve of the said four Persons, named as aforesaid by this Informant, as fit for the design, and declared that he knew Mr. *Levalin*, and Mr. *Karney*, before this Informant had named them, by the which, this Informant did apprehend, that he might have communicated with them of the said Design for *Windsor*, before the Nomination aforesaid; and he farther saith, at the same time when he came from *Windsor*, Mr. *William Ireland*,

land did ask this Informant for the twenty pound lent unto this Informant upon Bond, although the same was not then due: and farther said, he wanted fourscore Pounds, having then occasion for that Sum, and this Informant did say, he would return what he owed him, as soon as he should get into the *North*.

And this Informant further saith, that nigh two Months after the mustering the Forces upon *Heunslow* Heath, the aforementioned *Thomas Jenison* told this Informant, he had a matter of great Consequence to impart unto him, adding, that there was a Design on foot, so laid, as it could not well be discovered, wherein the greatest Catholics in *England* were embarked; that the Queen and the Duke were in the design, and several Lords by name, the Lord *Bellasis*, the Lord *Powis*, the Lord *Arundel* of *Warder*; and the said *Tho. Jenison* did say, that they had often attempted the Lord Treasurer, and at the last had made him theirs; further saying, that it would be of great Advantage to this Informant, to imbarque with them, and that he could not be in greater danger than they, and that he would acquaint this Informant with more Particulars, after he had received the Sacrament of Secresie, which he engaged this Informant to do upon the next Holiday, at Sir *Philip Tyrwhit*'s house in *Bloomsbury*; but this Informant did not receive the Sacrament upon any account whatsoever, about the Plot; and this Informant then wishing he had had a Commission in the new Levies, the said *Thomas Jenison* replied, that he would get him a Commission from the Duke of *Tork*, whereunto, this Informant returning Answer, how could that be, seeing all the Commissions are now granted out, and full; the said *Tho. Jenison* did then in plain words tell this Informant, that there was a new Army to be rais'd for to bring in Religion, but would acquaint this Informant with Particulars hereafter, and therefore desired to know of this Informant, how he might send him a Commission with Safety, he knowing this Informant intended suddenly to go into the Bishoprick of *Durham*, and, as this Informant remembers, this Commission was not to be sent, until the taking of the King was effected, whereat this Informant was somewhat surpris'd; but *Thomas Jenison* did say, he would tell him things more at large, after his Receiving the Sacrament of Secresie: and this Informant further saith, that upon the day that this Informant received the twenty pound lent unto him, he went with the said *Thomas Jenison*, to Mr. *William Harcourt*'s Chamber
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in *Duke street*, to return thanks for the obligation, in consenting to lend the Money, *Mr. Tho. Jenison* falling upon that common Topick, that Religion wou'd suddenly come in, he did exprefs himself as *Dr. Oates* has it in his *Narrative*, viz. If *C. R.* would not be *R. C.* he should not long be *C. R.*: which he interpreted, *Si Carolus Rex non esset Rex Catholicus; non foret diu Carolus Rex*: Which was not the first time this Informant heard that quibbling Expression from the said *Tho. Jenison*: who further then added upon Discourse, That the King being Excommunicated and Deposed, he was no longer King; and it were no sin, or no great sin at least, to take him off; and if it should be discovered who did it, perhaps two or three might dye for it; but denying the Fact, (this Informant supposes his meaning to have been denying themselves to be Papists that committed to Barbarous and Villainous a Fact) the matter wou'd soon blow over (because the Duke was to succeed).

And this Informant further saith, being with the said *Tho. Jenison* and another Gentleman about the latter end of *April*, or beginning of *May*, 78, (whose Name he remembreth not) in the aforesaid *Ireland's Chamber*, there came one in, who after some private discourse with *Mr. Ireland*, departed; and after he was gone, the said *Tho. Jenison* told this Informant, 'Twas one *Mr. Oates*, who had been a Parson, but was come over to them, and that he was a Brisk Jolly Man well worth this Informant's acquaintance. And this Informant very well remembers, there happening sometime after a discourse about the said Parson that was lately come over, the said *Tho. Jenison* did say, that That Parson was engaged in the Design. Whereto this Informant objected, That a Reconciled Enemy ought no more to be Trusted, than an Open Foe. But the said *Tho. Jenison* answered, They were sure enough of him, and that being once Reconciled, they were the more Zealous, and Trusty. To which Opinion this Informant submitted, instancing *Dr. Godwin*, and *Dr. Bailey*, as being Zealous Catholics, altho' they were Protestant Converts.

And this Informant further saith, That he was in *Shinfeild Parish* near *Reading* in *Berks*, about the time of *Coleman's Tryal*, where he met with *Mr. Cuffell* a Romish Priest and Jesuite, who then much blamed the said *Coleman*, saying he was Infatuated, to suffer his own Papers to be taken upon the Disco-

very of the *Plott*; when as he had given Notice to Mr. *Harcourt*, Mr. *Ireland*, and the rest of the *Jesuits*, to burn or secure theirs. And he very well remembers, That amongst other discourse, this *Informant* spake against the Opinion that *Bellarmino*, *Mariana*, and *Suarez* maintained touching the Power of the *Pope* to Depose Kings. Upon which the said *Cuffell* mentioned a Sentence which he said *Bellarmino* did draw out of the Scripture for that Opinion, which was, *Quod Papa habeat eandem potestatem super Reges quam Jehojida habuit super Athasliam*.

And this *Informant* further saith, That *Madam Hall* his Sister being present at the said *Cuffell's* other discourse concerning *Coleman's* Infatuation, in sending Notice as before, &c. upon this *Informant's* reflecting in the absence of *Cuffell*, viz. That by his side-words he seemed manifestly to own a *Plot*, his Sister did then say, She very much feared that they had some *Bloudy Design*, for that she had heard the said *Cuffell* some little time before the breaking out of the *Plott*, upon a discourse that Religion would shortly come into *England*, say these words; viz. *There must be some Bloud shed before Religion cou'd be introduc'd*: But she told him she did not believe it ought to come in that way.

This *Informant* further saith, That usually visiting *Madam Harewell* his Aunt, and her Daughter at their Lodgings in *Kings Street Covent-Garden* at the least three or four times a Week, which as this *Informant* certainly remembers, was before the Tryal of the Five *Jesuits* Executed for the *Execrable Popish Plott*, he had the opportunity of seeing, reading, and transcribing several Papers and Letters from his Brother Mr. *Tho. Jenison*, all tending to invalidate Mr. *Oates* his Testimony; the particular ways he used, doth not perfectly occur to his Memory; but this *Informant* remembers he told *Madam Harewell* and her Daughter, That he thought those Arguments wou'd do his said Brother but little good for his Defence, unless he had better behind. But there were two Passages in the said Papers, or Letters, some whereof were superscribed to one Dr--- or Sir--- wherein the said *Tho. Jenison* thus expressed himself, *Why are our Friends disgusted, I will not stir*

stir one hairs breadth. By which Expression this Informant did believe that some of the *Plotters* were afraid, and Jealous lest the said *Tho. Jenison* shou'd detect their *Plott*, and therefore by these words he assured them, That he wou'd not recede one hairs breadth from his Resolution of Secrecie. And this Informant saith, That he then communicating his said reflection, and observation to the said Ladies, they were at a stand, not knowing how to excuse his meaning. The second passage was about what the said *Tho. Jenison* supposed himself to have spoke to the Lady *Tyrrwhit*, upon his being apprehended at her Lodgings in *Bloomsbury*, whereof he seem'd very solicitous to be ascertain'd in the aforementioned Papers, and that by some cunning third hand; *For I believe, saith he, I said I did not know Mr. Oates.* By which this Informant perceived his meaning to be, That if he had then, viz. upon his apprehension denyed his knowledg of *Mr. Oates* to the Lady *Tyrrwhit*, (who, by the way, was his Profelyte) he was resolved to persist in the said denyal to the last: Tho on the other hand this Informant doth certainly know the said *Tho. Jenison* was well acquainted with the said *Mr. Oates*, as appeareth by Two Remarkable Instances in the former Depositions of this Informant.

This Informant likewise saith, That *Mrs. Anne Ireland* coming to this Informant's Chamber to chide him, for that she heard he was about to discover some matters touching the *Plott*, she to dissuade him hastily said; *On my Conscience I think you'll bring your self into the Plott, and by your discovery will own that there was a Plott, and that you was engaged in it, and so disgrace your self.* Though she probably knew this Informant was no further concerned than in what was imparted in that discourse he had with her Brother (she being there present) after this Informant's arrival from *Windsor*. And *Mrs. Anne Ireland* further said then, *That this Informant was worse than Dr. Oates; for, that Dr. Oates did follow the Plott and make an early Discovery, but, this Informant came in too late.*

To which this Informant replied, That what he had to say, he remembred from the very first Discovery, and before, or at the least within 3. or 4. months of the breaking out of
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the Discovery of the *Plott*, and that he would not offer to depose any thing upon Oath, but what he could certainly charge his Memory with ; and so bid her not trouble her self.

This Informant also very well remembreth, That about the latter end of *September*, or the beginning of *October*, (78.) when he was at his Fathers House in the Bishoprick of *Durham*, Mr. *Ralph Jenison* a Jesuite, came to see this Informant, who before they parted asked the said Mr. *Ralph Jenison* how he might conveniently send 20 l. to Mr. *Ireland*, which this Informant said he did owe to him. Mr. *Ralph Jenison* replied, (which Directions this Informant did then take in a little Journal) *You may send a Letter with your Bill to Mr. Ireland, and enclose them in another Letter to Mr. Oates at his Lodging at Mr. Grigsons in Drury-Lane, and your Letter, or Moneys will come safe that way to Mr. Ireland.*

Robert Jenison.

FINIS.
